Vic Gammon Audio Archive Guide #1 (July 27, 2023)

I have made available recordings of some of my folk revival musical activities and projects and related material on the Internet Archive. Each item I have posted has a distinct URL address and below is brief information relating to each one. Most items on the Internet Archive have a PDF which can be read online or downloaded and which gives further information on each recording. To find the material on the Internet Archive you can use the particular URL or you can go direct to https://archive.org and search 'Vic Gammon'.

In this guide I am also referencing and and providing URLs for some material already on the Internet but not placed there by me. This information is correct at the time of compiling this document but there is no guarantee of ongoing availability.of the material.

I intend to add items to this archive over time, and will reissue this guide occasionally to reflect new additions.

I have always found the greatest satisfaction in making music and discussing music with other people and I would like to thank sincerely all those with whom I have played, collaborated and talked over the years, many of whom have contributed to the recordings detailed here. For this particular exercise I would like especially to thank Doc Rowe, Stephen Fry, and the staff of the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library for help, and to members of the Traditional Song Forum and the Folk Song Research Group for continual discussion, stimulation and encouragement.

Material posted by me on the Internet Archive

Music

Hark, Hark What News - Hope in the Valley (1979)
Carols and Dances from a Sussex Village Ceilidh (Ringmer 1978). This event was the initial fruit of my researchers into Sussex song and dance material, performed by a choir and an instrumental group form for the occasion.(Vic Gammon Audio Archive)

https://archive.org/details/hark-hark-what-news-hope-in-the-valley

The Pump and Pluck Band - What a Beau my Granny was (1980)
A 1980 album of traditional songs and dance music from the south of England. Originally issued on cassette and recorded by Mike Stevens (Vic Gammon Audio Archive)

https://archive.org/details/pump-and-pluck-band

Dearman Gammon and Harrison - Black Crow, White Crow (2005)

A 2005 album by a trio, Annie Dearman, Vic Gammon and Steve Harrison, featuring English traditional songs and some dance tunes. Produced by Johnny Adams who also played the piano on the dance tunes. Originally issued by the English Folk Dance and Song Society. The activities of this trio were only ended by the sad illness and death of Steve Harrison in 2018. (Vic Gammon Audio Archive).

https://archive.org/details/dearman-gammon-harrison

Vic Gammon and Friends - Early Scottish Ragtime (2016)

A 2016 instrumental album originally issued by Fellside, recorded by Vic Gammon and mixed by Paul Adams. This album explores the suggested links between proto-ragtime music and the traditional dance music of Britain and Ireland. It has some great performances from Stewart Hardy, Steve Harrison, Sandra Kerr, Dan Walsh and Desi Wilkinson. Looking at the reviews, I recall Paul Adams described the record as an artistic success even if the commercial sales were modest. Something like that would not be a bad epitaph. (Vic Gammon Audio Archive).

https://archive.org/details/early-scottish-ragtime

The Garret Singers (1968)

This 7" EP was the first 'proper' recording I ever made. We were young and enthusiastic. At the time we were running a folk club at The Selkirk pub in Tooting which met on a Thursday evening, The recording quality is poor but it represents an important stage in my musical life. (Vic Gammon Audio Archive).

https://archive.org/details/the-garret-singers

Annie Dearman and Vic Gammon, Cassette EP, (1995)

This EP cassette was recorded fairly soon after Annie and I had started performing together. It was made to give to friends and to circulate to potential bookers and organisers. It is historically interesting in that it features two instruments I no longer play: the duet concertina and the Sobell cittern. (Vic Gammon Audio Archive)

https://archive.org/details/annie-dearman-vic-gammon

Bob Copper, Eddie Upton and Vic Gammon: Sussex Songs (Sidmouth Festival 1985)

A recording of a short concert at the Sidmouth festival. Eddie Upton and I played together quite a lot in the 1970s and 80s. I regularly attended the Copper Family's singing sessions in the 1970s and 1980s, and I'm very pleased to have a recording of me performing from the same stage as Bob Copper, a man who enriched the lives of many, many people. (Vic Gammon Audio Archive).

https://archive.org/details/sussex-songs-1985

Will Duke, Alun Howkins and Vic Gammon at Birtley Folk Club (2011)

Performances at Birtley Folk Club filmed by Austin Dunphy in 2011 and used with his kind permission.

https://archive.org/details/duke-gammon-howkins

Traditional Music Session at The Ram, Firle, East Sussex. (1993)

I left Sussex in 1992 to work in West Yorkshire. We established the sessions at the Ram at Firle in 1975 as an event where The Pump and Pluck Band could practice. The sessions grew from the band plus a couple of locals as audience, to a session in which the pub was heaving with instrumentalists and audience.

I recorded this session in April 1993 in order to have a momento of those wonderful events. The pub later changed into a Gastro pub and the sessions had to move elsewhere. (Vic Gammon Audio Archive)

https://archive.org/details/traditional-music-at-the-ram-1993

The Rigs of the Time (1980)

This is a bootleg recording made by Phil Everitt of a live performance of this musical documentary about the history of English agricultural workers written by Alun Howkins and Vic Gammon and staged at the Gardener Centre for the Arts, Sussex University. The quality of the recording is not good, Phil was in the auditorium with a hand held microphone, but the words come through quite clearly. The start of part 2 is particularly problematic. It is, however, a unique record of a memorable performance. The performers did not know that it was being recorded, (Vic Gammon Audio Archive)

https://archive.org/details/rigs-of-the-time_202307

Recordings for 'The Art of Death' exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum (November 1991)

'The Art of Death' was a groundbreaking exhibition put on at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1992 and curated by Nigel Llewellyn who subsequently wrote a very good book on the subject. I was able to encourage enough of my musical friends to form a group just to provide these pieces, which we recorded in Firle Church and played during the exhibition. (Vic Gammon Audio Archive)

https://archive.org/details/art-of-death-recordings

Interviews and talks

Interview of Vic Gammon by Peter Wood, Whitby Folk Week (August, 2010)

Whitby Folk Week regularly includes interviews as part of its program. In 2010, the year I retired from my Newcastle University post, Peter Wood interviewed me about a range of topics covering aspects of my musical life, my academic work and my teaching. (Vic Gammon Audio Archive).

https://archive.org/details/peter-wood-interview

Frankie Armstrong in conversation with Vic Gammon (November 2007)

Frankie Armstrong, is one of the leading women singers of the British folk revival. Not only is she an accomplished solo performer but during the course of her career developed skills in conducting voice workshops. She was instrumental in the creation of the Natural Voice Network. This Tynefolk interview, in front of an audience, discusses her life and work.

https://archive.org/details/frankie-armstrong-interview

Material posted by other people / organisations

Music

Etchingham Steam Band - BBC John Peel Recordings (1974)
Shirley Collins, Terry Potter, Vic Gammon, Ian Holder, Ashley Hutchins

I don't know who put this set on internet but they are the best recordings of the Etchingham Steam Band I have heard. This is a five piece version of the band with the wonderful Terry Potter on mouth organs, Shirley Collins singing beautifully, Ian Holder on accordion, Vic Gammon on melodeon, baritone English concertina and tin whistle and Ashley Hutchins on an Earthwood bass guitar, sounding better on a balanced recording than I ever remember it sounding live.

The complete session recorded by The Etchingham Steam Band on 21 October 1974 for John Peel on Top Gear on BBC Radio 1 and broadcast on 5 November 1974.

Tracklist:
1. The Gypsy's Wedding Day (0:07)
2. Orange In Bloom (2:54)
3. 2 Polkas: Grandmother's Dance / Buttered Peas (5.31)
4. The Hard Times Of Old England (7:51)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voo2NZbmtyA

Etchingham Steam Band - live at the Lenzberg Festival (1975)
Shirley Collins, Vic Gammon, Ian Holder, Ashley Hutchins

Tracklist
21 June 1975

L751H_0701	Grandmother's Dance/Grandfather's Dance
L751H_0702	Bonny Kate
L751H_0703	Peggy And The Squire
L751H_0704	Gypsy's Wedding Day (Little Gypsy Girl)
L751H_0705	Sussex Whistling Song (The Devil And The Ploughman)
L751H_0706	The Dorset Shepherd's Song
L751H_0707	The Sucking Pig
L751H_0708	Marmalade Polka

22nd June 1975

L752H_2201	Nutting Girl/Jimmy Allen
L752H_2202	Coast Of High Barbaree
L752H_2203	Gaol Song
L752H_2204	Leap Frog/Young Collins/Shooting
L752H_2205	Shepherd, oh Shepherd
L752H_2206	Michael Blann's Drinking Song
L752H_2207	The Hard Times Of Old England
L752H_2208	The New Rigged Ship / Atholl Highlanders

https://lenzburg.fatamorgana.ch/sammlung.html

Vic Gammon at The Bridge Folk Club, Newcastle

The long-established Bridge Folk Club in Newcastle has a practice of videoing all performances, bookings and floor spots, and placing all those approved by the performer (s) on Facebook. They have thus created a considerable archive which I'm sure will be of great use to future interested people and historians. Facebook is not that easy to navigate but here is a list of some of the material I think is available - all solo performances.

The Bricklayer Boy + Hunt the Squirrel (2017) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1121428984625634
The Night Visiting Song (2017) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1143645229070676
The Crockery Ware (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1274567395978458
William Was A Norman, The Kings and Queens of England (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1379557415479455
The Irish Girl (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/266326750652583

A Famous Farmer (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1274591992642665
The Mist is in the Valley (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1309784965790034
Old England, what have you come to? (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1321396617962202
We Poor Jolly Sailor Men (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1347945575307306
Jack upon the Green (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1356960257739171

Send Back my Barney to Me (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1378782828890247
No Going Back (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1343167055785158
The Irish Girl (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/266326750652583
The Ballad of Ben Child (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1292053190896545
Bob Chadduck's Jig (2018) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1304380569663807

The Gaol Song (2019)- https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/889551714748509
Poor Old Horse (2019) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1480257918742737
Old Brown Dog - (2021) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/2282860815226077
Wake ye North Winds (2021) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/727616389078732

Once I loved a Girl (2021) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1215558996005675

Our Old Cat (2021) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/919742285686055
Lowlands of Holland (2021) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/969279080715298
Early, Early all in the Spring (2021)- https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/852949236009886
The Lass of Islington / Sellinger's Round (2021) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/890057828798310
Newlyn Town (2021) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/750078683167311

The Orange Rogue & The Fycket (2021) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/894528331864875
Ely Green's Cakewalk & Some Days there just ain't no Fish (2021) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/563573681978052
The Goose and the Gander (2021) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/846612873288959
Botany Bay (2022) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1570717230083761
Three Hundred Soldiers (2022) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1771173403245991

The Bricklayer Boy (2022) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/857883925348363
Young Hunting (2022) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1323767748411375
The Mistletoe Bough (2022) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1480243848744144
Ash and Alder (2022) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1346548862839802
Truck Driving Man (2023) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/3035441510083023

The Irish Girl (2023) - https://www.facebook.com/100057571355171/videos/1643329212780897

Plays for which I contributed/composed the music

John Fletcher: The Legend of Robin Hood (1992)

Of the 20 or so plays for which I contributed music, this seems to be the only one available for listening . I really enjoyed making music for plays but could not put time and energy into the activity once I became a university teacher in 1992. John Fletcher's play 'Death and the Tango' (1990) for which I did the music, won a Giles Cooper award for best new drama but does not seem to be available to listen to.

https://archive.org/details/john-fletcher-the-legend-of-robin-hood

Talks, Interviews, contributions to programmes

The Night Visit (contribution, 2013)

Programme hosted by Tim van Eyken which confirmed me in the view I should do more research on this subject. First broadcast Tuesday 1 Oct 2013, BBC Radio 4.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03bqws9

Murder Ballads with Lucy Worsley (extract, 2013)

Extract (4 minutes) from a TV programme 'A Very British Murder' first broadcast 16th September 2013

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gt8tp

The Night Visit Song Revisited

Talk given for the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library in 2016

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TL0rqMfTqYM

British Library: oral history of oral history: Life story interview with Vic Gammon, by Robert Wilkinson.

No doubt these long form, multi-part interviews will be of great use to scholars wishing to investigate specific areas in the future, but I cannot see any of my present readers really wanting to sit through the 17 hours, or whatever it is of me talking without very strong motivation.

Usefully, the interviews have a guide to them which sketches out the main themes and subjects and gives timing indications, and this allows interested people to pursue specific interests.

https://www.bl.uk/collections/oral-history-of-oral-history-in-the-uk?searchTerm=Oral+history+of+oral+history+in+the+UK&firstCall=true&page=4&sort=recentlyadded&view=gridview&collection=true

There is an interview of **Alun Howkins** in the same series, in which our friendship and work together is discussed.

https://sounds.bl.uk/sounds/alun-howkins-interviewed-by-robert-wilkinson-part-1-of-17-1001615634100x000002

Contributions to The Traditional Song Forum (TSF) online sessions.

These videos seem to be accessed best by going to the TSF Youtube channel

https://www.youtube.com/@traditionalsongforum/videos

and then finding the individual session referenced below

Talk: **'Hard is the Fortune of all Woman Kind'**

Starts (eventually) at 8 minutes 50 seconds in.

TSF Online 9, (6 September 2020)

/////

Talk on article in *The Routledge Companion to English Folk Performance*: **The Rise and Fall of the West Gallery: popular religious music in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries'**

Starts at 1 hour 11 minutes 20 seconds in.

TSF Online 28, 11 July 2021

/////

Talk on **'Local Carols in Context: Some Sussex Examples'**

Starts at 32 minutes 30 seconds in

TSF Online 35, 12 December 2021

/////

Talk: **'The US Origins of "The Blaydon Races'**

Starts 31 minutes 40 seconds in.

TSF Online 47, 11 September 2022

////

Talk: **''Oh Lovely Appearance of Death': Reflections Prompted by Meeting Alan Lomax'**

Starts at 36 minutes in.

TSF Online 45, 10 July 2022

/////

Material I am unable to post due to copyright reasons.

The English Toper BBC Radio (1976)

Details at https://genome.ch.bbc.co.uk/search/0/20?q=The+English+Toper#top . I am working on the BBC to allow me to post this from an off-air recording made by my friend Dave Hood. The BBC does not have a recording of this programme but, will not grant legitimate permission for me to post it without tremendous rigmarole and payment!. It was on hearing this broadcast that Neil Wayne contacted me about doing an LP of drinking song, which became The Tale of Ale.

The Tale of Ale (Free Reed Records,1977, 2007)

Details at https://www.allmusic.com/album/the-tale-of-ale-the-story-of-the-englishman-and-his-beer-mw0000584625 . Still available commercially.

The Garret Singers (Argo, 1970)

Details at https://folkcatalogue.wordpress.com/2010/06/12/1970-the-garret-singers-the-garret-singers/

John Fletcher: Death and the Tango (BBC Radio 3, 1990)

Details at https://audiodrama.fandom.com/wiki/Death_and_the_Tango . Winner of the Giles Cooper Award for best new drama.

The Pump and Pluck Band c. 1980. Alun Howkins, Vic Gammon, Sheila Gammon, Ian Russell, Will Duke and Ed Bassford.